

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 IO-10 /071 W

----- 049894

R 030950Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1557

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

COMUSSAG NKP THAILAND

CINCPAC HONOLULU

COMIPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 0082

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION SAIGON IMMEDIATE INFO USDAO SAIGON REPEATED

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BIEN HOA 0004

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, VS

SUBJECT: ROCKET ATTACKS CONTINUE AGAINST BIEN HOA

REF: BIEN HOA 001

1. COMMUNIST FORCES CONTINUED THEIR ROCKETING OF THE BIEN HOA AREA ON JANUARY 2. ROCKETS IMPACTED ON THE BIEN HOA AIRFIELD AND IN THE SURROUNDING AREA AT 0400, 0830, AND 1530 HOURS.

2. AT 0400 HOURS COMMUNISTS FIRED A TOTAL OF NINE 122MM ROCKETS, SIX OF WHICH FELL INTO THE AIRBASE AND THREE OF WHICH IMPACTED IN THE CIVILIAN AREA ON QL 1 APPROXIMATELY 1.5 KMS FROM THE AIRBASE IN THE VICINITY OF YT 0112. NO DAMAGE WAS REPORTED AT THE AIRBASE BUT SIX CIVILIANS WERE WOUNDED AND TWO HOUSES DESTROYED IN THE CIVILIAN AREA. THE COMMUNIST LAUNCH SITE FOR THIS ATTACK HAS BEEN
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LOCATED APPROXIMATELY ONE KM NORTH OF QL 1, TEN KMS EAST OF THE

AIRBASE IN DUC TU DISTRICT IN BIEN HOA (YT 113135).

3. AT 0830 HOURS FOUR ROCKETS IMPACTED NEAR THE BIEN HOA AIRBASE RUNWAY. VNAF OFFICERS REPORT NEGATIVE DAMAGE FROM THIS ATTACK BUT AN AMERICAN SOURCE ON THE BASE INFORMED US THAT ONE F-5E WAS SEVERELY DAMAGED AND TWO F-5E'S WERE LIGHTLY DAMAGED.

4. AT 1530 HOURS TWO MORE 122MM ROCKETS IMPACTED ON THE AIRBASE WITH NEGATIVE DAMAGE REPORTED.

5. ACCORDING TO A LATE REPORT COMMUNISTS CONDUCTED ONE ROCKET ATTACK ON JANUARY 1 AT 1425 HOURS (NOT REPORTED IN REFTEL). THE ATTACK CONSISTED OF SIX ROCKETS WHICH IMPACTED AT THE PERIMETER DEFENSE AREA NORTHEAST OF THE AIRBASE WITH NO DAMAGE OR CASUALTIES REPORTED.

6. LATE INFORMATION RECEIVED ON THE ROCKET ATTACK CONDUCTED ON JANUARY 1 AT 0750 HOURS (SEE PARA 2 REFTEL) REPORTS THE FOLLOWING DAMAGE AT THE BIEN HOA AIRBASE: TWO HELICOPTERS DAMAGED; ONE L-19 SLIGHTLY DAMAGED; ONE MAINTENANCE SHOP DESTROYED; FIVE UH-1H ENGINES 50 PERCENT DAMAGED; AND FOUR CH-47 ENGINES 50 PERCENT DAMAGED.

7. MR-3 COMMANDER LTG DONG BELIEVES THE VC ARE CONDUCTING THESE ATTACKS TO DISRUPT AIR OPERATIONS IN SUPPORT OF THE DEFENSE OF THE PHUOC LONG PROVINCE CAPITAL WHICH IS CURRENTLY BEING BESEIGED BY A LARGE COMMUNIST FORCE.

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